



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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Minutes WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 2010 Wastewater Treatment Plant 7:30 PM

Attendees: John Anderson, Gary Leavitt, E. Ray Weaver, and Adam Weissberger. Also present David R. Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control; Arnie Bevins, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Peter Dureiko, Collection System Foreman; George Rostkowski, Business Manager; Peter Williams, Ellington WPCA Administrator; Kevin Santini, Santini Homes LLC; Joel Douglas and Bill Guevremont, e-Gen, LLC; residents John & Monica Jakiel and Michelle Harlow

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Monica Jakiel/27 Walker Terrace: Mrs. Jakiel expressed concern about an extremely strong and ongoing odor at her property. She said that the odor is so powerful at times that she feels that she cannot have visitors or entertain outdoors. She also expressed concern about possible health issues. When she purchased the property in March, there wasn't an odor, but the odor has become stronger during the warmer weather. She would like this odor problem to be resolved.

Michelle Harlow/35 Walker Terrace: Mrs. Harlow said that she can smell the odor at her property; the odor is stronger when the weather is humid. She would like the problem to be fixed as well.

Jonathan Jakiel/27 Walker Terrace: Mr. Jakiel also expressed concern about the odor on his property. He said that it is embarrassing for the town especially when people use that section of the Rails to Trails because the odor is so strong.

Mr. Weaver asked if the Jakiel's live near a sewer man hole and Mr. Bevins said that they live near a drop manhole. Mr. Anderson said that he knows residents that live on Walker Terrace who have expressed dismay with the odor problem.

Agenda Item #9 was moved to Agenda Item #7.

MINUTES OF WPCA PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON JULY 22, 2010

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, motioned to accept the minutes of the WPCA Public Hearing on July 22, 2010 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF WPCA SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JULY 22, 2010

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, motioned to accept the minutes of the WPCA Special Meeting held on July 22, 2010 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT FOR 1085 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, LLC

Mr. Ignatowicz said that there is no capacity issues with this project and it may aid in keeping the sewer lines flushed in that area. Mr. Santini provided details regarding the construction of two 16-unit apartment buildings, a club house, and sewer lateral connections. Mr. Ignatowicz recommended that the plan of development be approved and Mr. Dureiko agreed. Mr. Santini said he is concerned about the connection fees and asked the WPCA to consider lowering the fees. Mr. Weissberger asked Mr. Santini if he had a number in mind; Mr. Santini said that the connection fee for a single dwelling unit in Ellington is \$1100. A discussion took place relative to connection fee calculations and the total cost of the project. Mr. Anderson said it might be a good idea to discuss a lower cost; Mr. Weaver said he was concerned about setting a precedent; and Mr. Weissberger said that each project should be looked at on a case to case basis. Mr. Rostkowski said that connection charges should be consistent and if changed for this project, the town attorney should be consulted. Mr. Leavitt said that the sewer connection charges have already been adopted and the current fees should remain. Mr. Weaver agreed and said that the fees can be used in the future, for example, for repairs to the Rails-To-Trails odor problem. Regarding Mr. Santini's questions to change the cost of the connection fees, Mr. Anderson said that Mr. Santini's input would be welcome at the public hearing.

Mr. Weissberger, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, motioned that the Water Pollution Control Authority approve the Plan of Development known as 1085 Hartford Turnpike LLC, consisting of two 16-unit apartment buildings, a club house and a pool as shown on Map No. 6589AA, Sheet 3 of 6, Dated 3/16/10 by Gardner & Peterson Associates and authorize the Director of Water Pollution Control to enter into a Developers Permit Agreement with the Applicant. The motion passed unanimously.

ODOR CONTROL EVALUATION AND FAN TEST PROPOSAL FOR NORTH-SOUTH INTERCEPTOR

Mr. Ignatowicz provided history regarding the odor and bioxide treatment in the Talcottville section of town near Walker Terrace/Rails to Trails. He said that over \$100,000 in bioxide has been used to try and eliminate the odor emanating from that area. Stantec Consulting Services has submitted a proposal to conduct a collection system fan test to determine whether or not a single biofilter odor control system could adequately depressurize the sewer. Alternatively, chemical stations could be set up at the other four pump stations and carbon could be used to try and alleviate the odor, but Mr. Ignatowicz said that the carbon would be expensive to use. Mr. Weaver asked if the carbon used at the plant could be used to treat the odor. Mr. Bevins said it could not because the plant uses powdered activated carbon. Mr. Ignatowicz said that this test will determine how many biofilters will be needed. Mr. Bevins said that the test would take about two months and WPC staff will be used. Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Dureiko to comment. Mr. Dureiko said that the study should go forward; the fan test is more practical than chemicals. Mr. Ignatowicz said the cost would be about \$100,000 for two biofilters. Mr. Anderson said that the Authority is endeavoring to make this work and noted that the summer has been awfully dry.

Mr. Leavitt, seconded by Mr. Weissberger, motioned that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves the proposal from Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. dated September 10, 2010 to conduct a fan test on the North-South Interceptor Sewer for a lump sum cost of \$3,850 to be funded from the Sewer Connection Account. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ignatowicz asked the residents present from Walker Terrace for their patience and assistance in this matter. Mr. Weaver asked if Mr. and Mrs. Jakiel can have a copy of the proposal and Mr. Ignatowicz said that one will be sent to them.

PROPOSAL FROM e-GEN, LLC TO PILOT IN-STREAM POWER GENERATORS

Mr. Joel Douglas, CTO/Co-Founder of e-Gen, LLC of Groton, CT presented information about the installation and testing of a 480-Volt, 3-Phase, 5 kilowatt, in-stream generator at the water pollution control facility. The generator would supply a limited amount of power to the plant's buildings and/or facilities. The pilot project would be completed over four months and e-Gen would be responsible for installation costs, Mr. Douglas said. The WPCA would pay 10 cents per KWh for power generated by the installation instead of the current rate of 14.1 cents per KWh. Mr. Weaver asked if the cost of energy is reduced would the WPCA still have to pay 10¢/KWh and Mr. Douglas said that e-Gen would take less. Mr. Ignatowicz said that he needs to look at e-Gen's Memorandum of Understanding further. Both Mr. Ignatowicz and Mr. Bevins agreed that the treatment plant has nothing to lose if e-Gen's pilot program is implemented. Mr. Douglas said that he can return with a proposal and Mr. Anderson said that he would like to spend additional time on the draft proposal to clearly define responsibilities.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT

Mr. Bevins reported that the plant is running well, it is the end of chlorination season and flows are at an all time low. The effluent quality is the best ever, he said, due in part to the diffusers. Mr. Bevins also reported that the plant's electricity bill dropped by about \$18,000 the first month the new diffusers have been online. Mr. Bevins also said that the Vernon Wastewater Treatment Facility received The New England Water Environment Association Utility Management Award. Mr. Bevins also reported that tomorrow, visitors from South Africa will be observing the treatment processes at the wastewater facility. Mr. Ignatowicz reported that the Air Diffuser Conversion project is almost complete. Testing still needs to be done on two of the tanks, personnel training will begin October 18th and the control system still needs to be fine tuned. Mr. Ignatowicz said that he expects CL&P to verify the upgrade in October or November. Regarding the Treatment Plant Appropriations Detail, Mr. Weaver asked for details regarding Rental of Equipment and Security Services. Mr. Ignatowicz reported that two water leaks were detected in August with the aid of the electronic meter reader purchased in May and the cost to repair those leaks was about \$13,500. Mr. Weaver asked if there are any surge relief devices installed to reduce the water pressure; can they be installed at the first point of usage to possibly alleviate the breaks. Mr. Bevins said that there are none; city water pressure is only 90-100 psi; and the facility does not use a lot of city water. Mr. Ignatowicz explained that pressure surges in water lines are not monitored.

TOWN OF VERNON CONTRACT #963-7/29/10 FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF THE CARBON REGNERATION EQUALIZATION TANK

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leavitt, motioned that the Water Pollution Control Authority approves the total sum of \$46,830.00 payable to AmTech Coatings, LLC of Plymouth, NH for an

emergency repair made during the week of August 9, 2010 to the WAR equalization tank. This approval supersedes the motion made by the Water Pollution Control Authority on July 22, 2010 to authorize \$39,890 that was contingent upon the condition of the tank. The repair required 10 foot lengths of sheet steel instead of the 8 foot lengths as originally proposed. Mr. Weaver asked if the repair is complete and Mr. Weissberger asked if the repair has been paid for. Mr. Ignatowicz said the tank has been repaired and paid for. The motioned passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Rostkowski reported that the sewer account balance is approximately \$1,306,648 with \$536,700 in unrestricted funds. He said that for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010, Accounts Receivable was approximately \$890,723, down 10.76% from last fiscal year; Delinquent Interest Collections was approximately, \$73,769, up 33.26% from last fiscal year; the collection rate was 95.12% up 2.94% from last fiscal year and Investment Income was approximately \$6,953, down 72.9% from last fiscal year. Mr. Rostkowski reported that there was an 8.5% increase in flow when comparing 10/09 to 10/10. He provided a history of Delinquent Sewer Use Collections Enforcement and reported that in FY 09-10 out of 620 liens sent out 453 were collected. Regarding demands, 372 were collected and 261 warrants were collected. Mr. Leavitt asked if there had been a discussion with the Finance Officer regarding different areas of investment income and Mr. Ignatowicz said that he has not yet received a response.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

None.

ADJOURN

Mr. Weissberger, seconded by Mr. Weaver, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control